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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. Specification [Total Pages 25]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (*if filed*)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets]
5. Oath or Declaration {unsigned} [Total Pages 3]
 a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
 Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
 named in the prior application, see 37 CFR
 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No _____ / _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____

Group / Art Unit _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label	(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)			<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
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Signature	<i>Joan M. McGillycuddy</i>		Date 10/19/2000

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JCS 09/692303 U.S. PTO 10/19/00

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 710.00)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Ann Kerstin B.K. LINDELL
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	AC02736US

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:
- Deposit Account Number **01-1350**
- Deposit Account Name **Akzo Nobel Inc.**
- Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17
- Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27
2. Payment Enclosed:
 Check Credit card Money Order Other

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139 130 Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147 2,520 For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112	920*	112 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215 55 Extension for reply within first month	
116	390	216 195 Extension for reply within second month	
117	890	217 445 Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,390	218 695 Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,890	228 945 Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	310	219 155 Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220 155 Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221 135 Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,240	241 620 Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,240	242 620 Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243 220 Design issue fee	
144	600	244 300 Plant issue fee	
122	130	122 130 Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123 50 Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	240	126 240 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246 355 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	710	249 355 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	710	279 355 Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169 900 Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify) _____			

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	710	201 355 Utility filing fee	
106	320	206 160 Design filing fee	
107	490	207 245 Plant filing fee	
108	710	208 355 Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214 75 Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 710.00)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
10	-20** =	—	X _____ = _____
2	-3** =	—	X _____ = _____
Multiple Dependent			= _____

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203 9 Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202 40 Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204 135 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209 40 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ --)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

SUBMITTED BY

Complete if applicable

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Date	10/19/2001				

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RADIATION CURABLE HOT MELT COMPOSITION AND A PROCESS FOR THE APPLICATION THEREOF

This application claims priority of European Patent Application No. 99203431.4,
5 filed on October 19, 1999.

The present invention relates to a radiation curable composition that is suited in particular for use on heat sensitive substrates, like cellulose-containing or plastic substrates. Further, these compositions are highly suitable for the
10 application of a coating on a substrate at high application speeds

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Traditionally, UV curable lacquers have been used to achieve high performance coating systems for heat sensitive substrates. One of the drawbacks of these
15 systems is their relatively high viscosity at room temperature. As a consequence, solvents or reactive monomers, also known as reactive diluents, have to be used to reduce the viscosity of the coating composition in order to get good flow and leveling at room temperature to achieve the desired smooth coated surface.

If a solvent is used to adjust the viscosity to obtain the desired flow and leveling properties of the coating composition, it must be removed from or driven out of the coating layer before or during the curing of the coating. In the past, the solvents were simply driven off and permitted to escape into the atmosphere.
25 The emission of most organic solvents contributes to the VOC level of the coating composition. The VOC level is restricted by present day legislation. Such restrictions are expected to be tightened in the near future. Several recycling systems for solvents have been proposed, but such systems and their operation are capital intensive.

The use of reactive diluents prevents VOC emission, as they are incorporated into the final film. However, they are known for their skin irritant and sensitizing properties. Further, these components often have a bad odour and are suspect in view of their toxic properties.

5

A further problem when coating porous substrates, e.g. wood, is the penetration of the reactive monomers into the pores of the substrate. This is a drawback in particular when the coating is cured by radiation. Since the radiation does not reach these areas, uncured coating material in the pores of the substrate is the
10 result. This can give health, safety, and environmental problems, e.g., when the substrate is cut or sanded. Release of free monomers from porous panels is known to occur even years after the lacquer has been applied.

In particular low-molecular weight material, viz. monomers and oligomers that
15 are used as reactive diluents, gives the biggest problem with penetration in these porous substrates. Well-known acrylic diluents, e.g., tripropylene glycol diacrylate (TPGDA), hexanediol diacrylate (HDDA), acrylated pentaerythritolethoxylate (PPTA), and hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA) are skin irritants and sensitizing and will never react if they are not reached by the UV
20 light.

One way to overcome the problems associated with the use of solvents or reactive diluents in these coating compositions is the use of a thermally curable powder coating. However, this technology has some drawbacks, in particular
25 when used for coating substrates like wood or plastic. The poor conductivity of these substrates makes it often difficult to apply a film of even thickness in an efficient process. It is only possible to obtain a film of even thickness at a relatively large layer thickness. This in turn means a higher consumption of

- coating material, which makes this process rather expensive. Further, the application of a powder coating to these substrates is often associated with dust problems due to the nature of the coating material. It is also difficult to get a good leveling of the coating, since the temperature of the coating cannot be
- 5 raised to the desired degree (above 100°C, a temperature range needed to get a good flow of the coating over the substrate) in view of the heat-sensitive nature of the substrate. The high temperature (above 140°C) needed to cure thermally curable powder coating compositions presents a further drawback of this type of coating material. For plastic substrates at these high temperatures
- 10 often deformation of the substrate is observed. For wooden substrates at this higher temperature degassing of moisture and/or other volatile compounds and migration of natural wood resins to the surface of the substrate are observed. This will result in a poor adhesion of any coating or finish that is applied to the surface.
- 15 Further, with these thermally curable powder coating compositions it is not possible to apply a coating to a substrate at a high application speed, since the coating has to be heated in a first step to obtain a good flow over the substrate and heated further in a second step to initiate curing of the coating.
- 20 In US 5,824,373 a powder coating system is disclosed to overcome the problems associated with a high curing temperature of a thermally curable powder coating composition. In this patent it is shown that powder coating compositions can be cured at a lower temperature by using UV curable powder coatings. The superior performance of these coating compositions reported in
- 25 this patent is related to the high-molecular weight resins that are used in these powder coating formulations. No reactive monomers or solvents are used, since the flow of the coating is controlled by melting the solid powder coating. However, this technology still has some of the drawbacks that were mentioned

- above for thermally curable powder coating compositions, in particular drawbacks not related to the curing temperature, like those associated with the poor conductivity of substrates. With these UV curable powder coating systems it is not possible to obtain a high application speed either.
- 5 Further, this technology is not suited for the coating of heat-sensitive substrates like wood or plastic, since the coating needs to be heated to a temperature above 90°C to have sufficient flow.
- From an application point of view, powder coating technology is also less
- 10 attractive to manufacturers of coated substrates who are used to applying solvent borne coatings by using rollers, sprayers etc., since they have to invest in new equipment and technology to be able to handle, apply, and regenerate the powder coating.
- 15 From US 4,990,364 hot melt coating compositions are known, which still show some of the drawbacks that are found for UV curable powder coating compositions, viz. the drawback of using relatively high temperatures to apply the coating to a substrate by melting the coating composition (> 100°C). This also makes these hot melt coating compositions less suited for use on heat
- 20 sensitive substrates.

If such compositions were used for coating wooden substrates, further problems would be encountered that are connected to the degassing of wood, which for some types of wood can start at a temperature below the application temperature of the coating. As indicated above, high temperatures can also

25 lead to the migration of natural wood resins to the surface of the substrate, which is not desirable.

Since the temperature of application of these coating compositions would be a compromise between the application viscosity of the composition and heat damage to the substrate, the application viscosity normally is not optimal.

- 5 In EP 608 891, US 4,234,662, and US 5,536,759 pressure sensitive adhesives are disclosed. These compositions can be cured by radiation. However they can not be used as coating compositions since they are tacky after radiation cure.
- 10 In WO 98/18868 a radiation hardenable solventless primer is disclosed. that is used to improve the adhesion to flexible substrates. The primer compositions that are disclosed all comprise more than 50 wt.% of an hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer. It was found that these compositions, when applied to a substrate and cured using UV radiationonly, provides a tacky coating. Such compositions
15 can thus not be used as a tack-free topcoat.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The composition according to the present invention overcomes the drawbacks of the above-mentioned coating compositions that are known in the art. In
20 particular the present invention provides compositions that can be used as coating compositions that are non-tacky after radiation curing.

The present invention concerns a radiation curable hot melt composition that can be cured by radiation only to a non-tacky coating, said composition comprising:

- 25 a) 20 to 100 wt.% of a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins having a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C,

- b) 0 to 50 wt.% of a hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers
- c) 0 to 10 wt.% of a photoinitiator
- d) 0 to 50 wt.% of fillers and/or additives, and
- 5 e) 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment,
wherein the total amount of components a) to e) adds up to 100 wt.%.

The hot melt composition according to the present invention provides a number of advantages over coating or putty compositions that are known in the art:

- 10 - it contains no solvent, so the composition is VOC-free
- skin irritating monomers can be avoided, it has less or no bad odour, unreacted monomers in porous substrates can be avoided and has less extractables,
- since it can be applied as a "conventional" solvent-containing coating, no
- 15 problems are encountered if the substrate has poor conductivity,
- the film thickness can be controlled easily,
- properties like adhesion, abrasion, resistance after abrasion, and chemical resistance are highly improved,
- it is possible to apply the composition at high speed.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Within the framework of the present invention, a radiation curable hot melt composition is a hot melt composition which is cured by using electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength $\lambda \leq 500$ nm. Examples of such radiation are, e.g.,

25 UV radiation or electron beam radiation.

Within the framework of the present invention, a heat sensitive substrate is a substrate that shows deformation, structural changes, discolouration, or other

thermal damage when heated to a temperature above 100°C, more in particular to a temperature in the range of 100 to 200°C.

It was found that the hot melt composition according to the present invention is
5 suited in particular to be used on heat-sensitive substrates. Normally, the application temperature of the hot melt coating composition is in the range from 40 to 150°C. The preferred temperature range for application of the coating composition to heat-sensitive substrates is from 40 to 100°C, more preferably from 50 to 90°C. If the composition is used as a coating composition, optimum
10 properties are obtained if the viscosity of the coating composition is in the range from 15 to 4,000 mPas, more preferably from 15 to 3,000 mPas, in the above-indicated temperature ranges. If the composition is used as a putty composition, optimum properties are obtained if the viscosity of the putty composition is in the range from 3,000 to 10,000 mPas, more preferably from
15 4,000 to 9,000 mPas, in the above-indicated temperature ranges.

The viscosity of the composition at the application temperature should be selected in accordance with the way the composition is applied to the substrate. For example, for spray application the viscosity should be lower than for roller application.

20

In principle any radiation curable resin or mixtures of resins can be used in the hot melt composition according to the present invention. These resins are present in an amount of 20 to 100 wt.% of the composition. Preferably, the resin is present in an amount of 30 to 90 wt.%, more preferred is an amount of
25 40 to 90 wt.%.

Polyesteracrylate resins were found to be very suitable for use in the hot melt coating composition according to the present invention. Examples of suitable commercially available polyesteracrylate resins are: Crodamer UVP-215,

Crodamer UVP-220 (both ex Croda), Genomer 3302, Genomer 3316 (both ex Rahn), Laromer PE 44F (ex BASF), Ebecryl 800, Ebecryl 810 (both ex UCB), Viaktin 5979, Viaktin VTE 5969, and Viaktin 6164 (100%) (all ex Vianova). Very promising results are found if the composition comprises at least 40 wt.% of a
5 polyesteracrylate resin.

Epoxyacrylate resins can also be used in the hot melt coating composition according to the present invention. Examples of commercially available epoxyacrylate resins are: Crodamer UVE-107 (100%), Crodamer UVE-130 (both ex Croda) Genomer 2254, Genomer 2258, Genomer 2260, Genomer
10 2263 (all ex Rahn), CN 104 (ex Cray Valley), and Ebecryl 3500 (ex UCB).

Polyetheracrylate resins can also be used in the hot melt coating composition according to the present invention. Examples of commercially available polyetheracrylate resins are: Genomer 3456 (ex Rahn), Laromer PO33F (ex BASF), Viaktin 5968, Viaktin 5978, and Viaktin VTE 6154 (all ex Vianova).

15 Urethaneacrylate resins can also be used in the hot melt coating composition according to the present invention. Examples of commercially available urethaneacrylate resins are: CN 934, CN 976, CN 981 (all ex Cray Valley), Ebecryl 210, Ebecryl 2000, Ebecryl 8800 (all ex UCB), Genomer 4258, Genomer 4652, and Genomer 4675 (all ex Rahn).

20

Another example of radiation curable resins that can be used in the hot melt composition according to the present invention are cationic UV curable resins, such as cycloaliphatic epoxide resins like Uvacure 1500, Uvacure 1501, Uvacure 1502, Uvacure 1530, Uvacure 1531, Uvacure 1532, Uvacure 1533,
25 and Uvacure 1534 (all ex. UCB Chemicals), CyraCure UVR-6100, CyraCure UVR-6105, CyraCure UVR-6110, and CyraCure UVR-6128, (all ex. Union Carbide), or SarCat K126 (ex. Sartomer), acrylate modified cycloaliphatic epoxides, caprolactone-based resins like SR 495 (=caprolactone acrylate ex.

Sartomer), Tone 0201, Tone 0301, Tone 0305, Tone 0310, (all caprolactone triol ex. Union Carbide), aliphatic urethane divinyl ether, aromatic vinyl ether oligomer, bis-maleimide, diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A or other glycols, hydroxy-functional acrylic monomer, hydroxy-functional epoxide resin,
5 epoxidised linseed-oil, epoxidised polybutadiene, glycidyl ester or partially acrylated bisphenol A epoxy resin, or trimethylolpropaneoxetane (UVR 6000, ex. Union Carbide).

Other radiation curable compounds that are suitable to be used in the hot melt-
10 containing composition according to the present invention are, e.g., vinyl ether-containing compounds, unsaturated polyester resins, acrylated polyetherpolyol compounds, (meth)acrylated epoxidised oils, (meth)acrylated hyperbranched polyesters, silicon acrylates, maleimide functional compounds, unsaturated imide resins, compounds suitable for photo-induced cationic curing, or mixtures
15 thereof.

It is possible to use in the compositions according to the present invention a radiation curable mixture of (a) photo-induced radical curing resin(s) and (a) photo-induced cationic curing resin(s). Such systems which are also called
20 hybrid systems comprise, for example, acrylic oligomers and vinyl ethers (as an example of a photo-induced radical curing resin and a photo-induced cationic curing resin) and radical and cationic photoinitiators. In principle all possible combinations of photo-induced radical curing resins and photo-induced cationic curing resins can be used in such hybrid systems.

25

It was found that coatings or putties with very good properties are obtained if the radiation curable composition comprises a resin or a mixture of resins with a

T_g below 0°C, preferably below -20°C. Optimum properties were found if the resin or the mixture of resins has a T_g in the range of - 70°C to - 20°C.

- The composition according to the present invention can also comprise a
- 5 hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers. It was found that if the level of these type of resins in the coating composition is too high (above 50 wt.%), the coating is still tacky after radiation cure. Examples of hydroxy functional resins that can be used are hydroxy functional (poly)urethane resins and hydroxy functional (poly)acrylate resins.
- 10 Normally these type of resins are added to the coating composition to have a coating with a further build-in chemical functionality. The amount of this type of resin can be in the range from 0 -50 wt.%, preferably 0 - 30 wt.%, more preferably 0 - 10 wt.%, calculated on the total weight of the composition.
- 15 Further, the composition can comprise a photoinitiator or a mixture of photoinitiators. Examples of suitable photoinitiators that can be used in the radiation curable composition according to the present invention are benzoin, benzoin ethers, benzilketals, α,α -dialkoxyacetophenones, α -hydroxyalkylphenones, α -aminoalkylphenones, acylphosphine oxides, benzophenone, thioxanthones,
- 20 1,2-diketones, and mixtures thereof. It is also possible to use copolymerisable bimolecular photoinitiators or maleimide functional compounds. Co-initiators such as amine based co-initiators can also be present in the radiation curable coating composition. Examples of suitable commercially available photoinitiators are: Esacure KIP 100F and Esacure KIP 150 (both ex Lamberti),
- 25 Genocure BDK and Velsicure BTF (both ex Rahn), Speedcure EDB, Speedcure ITX, Speedcure BKL, and Speedcure DETX (all ex Lambson), Cyrcure UVI-6990, Cyrcure UVI-6974, Cyrcure UVI-6976, Cyrcure UVI-6992 (all ex

Union Carbide), and CGI-901, Irgacure 184, Irgacure 500, Irgacure 1000, and Darocur 1173 (all ex Ciba Chemicals).

However, the presence of a photoinitiator is not necessary. In general, when electron beam radiation is used to cure the composition, it is not necessary to
5 add a photoinitiator. When UV radiation is used, in general a photoinitiator is added.

Although the total amount of photoinitiator in the composition is not critical, it should be sufficient to achieve acceptable curing of the coating when it is irradiated. However, the amount should not be so large that it affects the
10 properties of the cured composition in a negative way. In general, the composition should comprise between 0 and 10 wt.% of photoinitiator, calculated on the total weight of the composition.

The composition can also contain one or more fillers or additives. Fillers can be
15 any fillers known to those skilled in the art, e.g., barium sulphate, calcium sulphate, calcium carbonate, silicas or silicates (such as talc, feldspar, and china clay). Additives such as stabilizers, antioxidants, leveling agents, antisettling agents, matting agents, rheology modifiers, surface-active agents, amine synergists, waxes, or adhesion promoters can also be added. In general,
20 the hot melt coating composition according to the present invention comprises 0 to 50 wt.% of fillers and/or additives, calculated on the total weight of the coating composition.

The composition according to the present invention can also contain one or more pigments. Pigments known to those skilled in the art can be used in the
25 radiation curable composition according to the present invention. However, care should be taken that the pigment does not show a too high absorption of the radiation used to cure the composition. In general, the hot melt composition

according to the present invention comprises 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment, calculated on the total weight of the coating composition.

In addition to the compounds mentioned above, the radiation curable
5 composition according to the present invention can also comprise monomers or reactive diluents, e.g., to lower the viscosity of the composition. However, the amount of such compounds should be as low as possible.

The process for the preparation of the radiation curable hot melt composition according to the present invention is not critical. The components can be added
10 in any arbitrary sequence. Normally, the components are mixed until a homogeneous mixture is obtained. The mixing can be done in air. Care should be taken that during the mixing of the components the temperature does not become so high as to cause degradation of any of the components. Needless to say, the mixing should be performed in the absence of any radiation that
15 could initiate curing of the coating.

The present invention also relates to a process for the coating of a substrate by the application of a radiation curable hot melt composition. This process comprises the steps of:

- 20 1) providing a curable hot melt composition comprising
- a) 20 to 100 wt.% of a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins having a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C,
 - b) 0 to 50 wt.% of a hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers,
 - c) 0 to 10 wt.% of a photoinitiator,
 - d) 0 to 50 wt.% of fillers and/or additives, and
 - e) 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment,

wherein the total amount of components a) to e) adds up to 100 wt.%.

- 2) heating said hot melt composition to a temperature in the range from 40 to 150°C,
- 3) applying said hot melt coating composition to the substrate in the form of a coating or thin film, and
- 5
- 4) curing said hot melt by exposing the coated substrate to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength $\lambda \leq 500$ nm.

10 Optionally, to get a better performance of this process, the surface of the substrate is heated before, during and/or after the application of the hot melt coating composition. This is particularly advantageous in those processes where high application speeds are employed. The heating can be performed by using inductive heating, a hot air stream or by infrared light. Plastic substrates can be pretreated by corona, flame treatment, plasma, or a chemical treatment
15 to improve the adhesion of the hot melt coating composition to the substrate.

The process described above is suited for coating a substrate using coating compositions or putty compositions.

20 The preferred temperature range for the application of the coating composition to heat-sensitive substrates is from 40 to 100°C, more preferably from 50 to 90°C. If the composition is used as a coating composition, optimum properties are obtained if the viscosity of the coating composition is in the range from 15 to 4,000 mPas, more preferably from 15 to 3,000 mPas, in the above-indicated temperature ranges. If the composition is used as a putty composition, optimum
25 properties are obtained if the viscosity of the putty composition is in the range from 3,000 to 10,000 mPas, more preferably from 4,000 to 9,000 mPas, in the above-indicated temperature ranges.

Equipment known to those skilled in the art can be used to apply the heated hot melt coating. E.g., when a flat substrate is coated, the coating can be applied by using heated rollers. For these and other substrates it is also possible to use a heated spraygun or a heated curtain coater to apply the heated hot melt 5 coating. It is also possible to heat the composition in a storage tank or vessel and/or to heat the composition in the hose that transports the composition to an application apparatus and/or in the application apparatus itself. Heating can be performed by using direct or indirect heating, e.g., by using infrared radiation. Die applicators can be used for higher viscosities, for example for coil coatings.

10

In this process preference is given to the use of hot melt compositions that have a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas at the application temperature (40 to 150°C). The viscosity of the composition at the application temperature should be selected in accordance with the way the composition is applied to the 15 substrate. For example, for spray application the viscosity should be lower than for roller application.

It was found that by using these hot melt compositions excellent flow and levelling of the coating material are obtained. Further, it was found that the thickness of the coated film can be controlled easily. A film with a thickness of 5 20 µm can be applied without any special precautions being taken. On the other hand, it is also possible to apply a film with a thickness of 250 µm in one layer without sagging and with optimum leveling properties.

The coating on the thus obtained coated substrates has a very high abrasion 25 resistance on the one hand and a very high flexibility on the other.

The hot melt composition according to the present invention can be used as a primer, surfacer, filler, sealer, base coat and/or top coat. To obtain optimum properties of the coated substrate with respect to abrasion resistance, stain

resistance, flexibility, and adhesion, each coating layer is applied in an amount of 5 to 40 g/m².

If the substrate is parquet flooring, optimum results are found if the coating composition according to the present invention is applied in one or two layers

5 as a base coat at 25 to 35 g/m², and as a top coat at 5 to 15 g/m².

If the substrate is furniture veneer, optimum results are found if the coating composition according to the present invention is applied in one or two layers

as a base coat at 25 to 35 g/m², and as a top coat at 5 to 20 g/m².

If the substrate is PVC flooring, optimum results are found if the coating

10 composition according to the present invention is applied in one layer as a base coat at 5 to 20 g/m². For PVC flooring it is also possible to add an additional layer as a base coat or a top coat. However, no improvement of properties is achieved by the addition of these extra layers.

15 The hot melt compositions according to the present invention are particularly suited to be applied on heat-sensitive substrates. These substrates include cellulose-containing or plastic substrates. Examples of heat-sensitive substrates are wooden panels, veneer, fibre boards, plastic parts, PVC flooring panels, and electric circuit boards.

20 The hot melt compositions according to the present invention are also very suited to be applied at high speed. For example, they are very suited to be used for the coating at high speed of flat panels of wood, plastic or steel.

25 The invention will be elucidated with reference to the following examples. These are intended to illustrate the invention but are not to be construed as limiting in any manner the scope thereof.

Examples

Measurement method for the viscosity

The viscosity of the compositions was measured at 60°C at 10 s⁻¹ in a Stresstech Rheologica AB cone-plate viscometer, equipped with a cone (diameter of 40 mm, 1° angle) and an ETC cell for high-temperature measurements.

Measurement method for T_g

The T_g of the radiation curable resin(s) was measured for 5 to 10 mg samples in a Perkin Elmer DSC Pyris 1, at a heating rate of 10°C/min.

- Different coating formulations according to the present invention were prepared and applied to different substrates. The thus obtained coated substrates were tested for their abrasion resistance, chemical resistance, extractable monomers, and flexibility of the coating layer. To simulate conventional UV lacquer compositions, some formulations were diluted with conventional/state of the art diluents to application viscosity and applied to the substrates at room temperature.
- In Table 1 an overview is presented of the composition of the different formulations. For the preparation of these compositions the following components were used:

Crodamer UVP 215/220	: both polyesteracrylate binders
CY 179	: a cycloaliphatic epoxy binder
CyraCure UVR 6000	: 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl-oxetane binder
Ebecryl 8800	: an aliphatic urethane acrylate binder
Gasil AQ 75N	: a filler (amorphous silica)
Genocure MBF	: a methylbenzoylformate photoinitiator
Laromer PAB	: a polyesteracrylate binder
Laromer PO43F	: a polyetheracrylate binder
Plastorit Super	: a filler
Setal UPB	: an unsaturated polyester binder
Siokal FF20	: a filler
Speedcure BEM	: a benzophenone photoinitiator
Tone 305	: a caprolactone triol binder
UV 9380C	: a photoinitiator
Viaktin 6164	: a polyesteracrylate binder

The hot melt coating formulations were applied to different substrates, e.g., parquet flooring (oak and beech), veneer, and PVC material. Before the
5 application of the coating, the substrates were preheated to a temperature between 50 to 80°C. The hot melt coating compositions were applied to flat substrates using a roller coater at a temperature between 60 to 80°C at 5 to 30 g/m². After the application of the hot melt coating, the coated substrates were transported through an oven to get a better flow and a smoother surface. Then
10 the coated substrates were mounted on a drive belt and passed under an 80 W/cm Hg Lamp at a speed of 5 m/min.

Table 1: Radiation curable hot melt coating formulations (in % by weight)

Compound	Formulation								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Crodamer UVP 220						78.26			
Crodamer UVP 215							86.96		
CY-179								84.16	76.51
CyraCure UVR 6000									9.09
Ebecryl 8800						8.70			
Gasil AQ 75N			7.08	10.26	13.33	8.70	8.70		
Genocure MBF	1.75	1.75	2.21	2.14	1.67	2.17	2.17		
Laromer PAB		61.40	70.80	68.37	66.66				
Laromer PO43F			17.70	17.09	16.67				
Plastorit Super	4.39	4.39							
Setal UPB		26.32							
Siokal FF20	4.39	4.39							
Speedcure BEM	1.75	1.75	2.21	2.14	1.67	2.17	2.17		
Tone 305								13.86	12.60
UV 9380C								1.980	1.80
Viaktin 6164	87.72								
Viscosity (mPas)	1,210	1,210	804	1,100	2,330	3,690	2,580	48	35
T _g (°C)	- 47	- 46	- 55	- 55	- 55	- 48	- 44		

Example 1

In accordance with the procedure described above, a base coat was applied to a flooring panel at 60 g/m² in two steps by applying hot melt coating formulation 1. Formulation 3 was applied as a top coat at 10 g/m².

- 5 For comparison, formulation 1 was diluted with 30 wt.% of tripropylene glycol diacrylate (TPGDA) and formulation 3 with 50 wt.% of glycol diacrylate (TPGDA).

The abrasion resistance of the thus obtained samples was measured according to SIS (Swedish Industrial Standard) 923509.

- 10 The following results were found:

Test sample	abrasion / 100 revolutions
formulation 1	2.0 mg
formulation 3	3.0 mg
formulation 1 + 30% TPGDA	3.5 mg
formulation 3 + 50% TPGDA	4.5 mg

The abrasion resistance of the coated panels was measured as the number of revolutions to wear through. The following results were found:

15

Test sample	revolutions to wear through
Panel coated with formulation 1 base coat and formulation 3 top coat	7000
Panel coated with formulation 1 + 30% TPGDA base coat and formulation 3 + 50% TPGDA top coat	4000

Further, for formulations 1 and 3 no extractable monomers were found in the coated substrate. For the formulations including TPGDA 8 mg/dm² of extractable monomers were found.

Example 2

- 5 In accordance with the procedure described above, a base coat was applied to a PVC flooring at 10 g/m².

For comparison, formulation 6 was diluted with 40 wt.% of hexanediol diacrylate (HDDA) and applied at room temperature.

- 10 The flexibility of the coating was measured by bending the coated PVC substrate through 180°. For the substrate coated with formulation 6 no cracking was observed. For the substrate coated with the diluted formulation 6, cracks were observed in this test.

- 15 It was further found that the stain resistance of the PVC substrate coated with formulation 6 was much better than the stain resistance of the substrate coated with the diluted formulation. The results for these tests are given in Table 2 on a five points scale. 0 indicates very poor stain resistance, 5 indicates excellent stain resistance.

20

Table 2: Stain resistance

Dye in	Formulation 6	Formulation 6 + 40 wt.% HDDA
Water	5.0	4.5
Ethanol	3.5	3.0
White spirit	5.0	4.0

Example 3

The cationic curing coating compositions of examples 8 and 9 were applied to a
5 substrate in accordance with the procedure described above. 2 hours after the
curing of the coatings the pendulum hardness (König) of the coatings was
measured using a standard test. A hardness of 210 and 217 s was found for
the compositions of examples 8 and 9, respectively.

10

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We claim:

1. A radiation curable hot melt composition that can be cured by radiation only to a non-tacky coating, said composition comprising:
 - a) 20 to 100 wt.% of a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins having a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C,
 - b) 0 to 50 wt.% of a hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers,
 - c) 0 to 10 wt.% of a photoinitiator,
 - d) 0 to 50 wt.% of fillers and/or additives, and
 - e) 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment,wherein the total amount of components a) to e) adds up to 100 wt.%.
2. The radiation curable hot melt composition of claim 1, wherein the radiation curable resin or the mixture of radiation curable resins has a T_g below 0°C.
3. The radiation curable hot melt composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a coating composition comprising a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins with a viscosity in the range from 15 to 4,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C.
4. The radiation curable hot melt composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a putty composition comprising a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins with a viscosity in the range from 3,000 to 10,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C.
5. The radiation curable hot melt composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a polyesteracrylate resin.

6. A process for coating a substrate to provide a non tacky protective coating or film thereon, said process comprising the steps of:
- i) providing a radiation curable hot melt composition comprising a) 20 to 5 100 wt.% of a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins having a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas in the temperature range from 40 to 150°C, b) 0 to 50 wt.% of a hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers, c) 0 to 10 wt.% of a photoinitiator, d) 0 to 50 wt.% 10 of fillers and/or additives, and e) 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment, wherein the total amount of components a) to e) adds up to 100 wt.%,
 - ii) heating said hot melt composition to a temperature in the range from 40 to 150°C,
 - iii) applying said hot melt composition to the substrate in the form of a 15 coating or thin film, and
 - iv) curing said hot melt by exposing the coated substrate to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength $\lambda \leq 500$ nm.
7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the substrate is a heat-sensitive 20 substrate.
8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the substrate contains cellulose and/or plastic and the hot melt composition is heated to a temperature in the range from 40 to 100°C.
- 25
9. The process according to claim 6, wherein the hot melt composition comprises a resin or a mixture of resins with a T_g below 0°C

10. The process according to claim 6, wherein the hot melt composition comprises a polyesteracrylate resin.

Abstract

The invention relates to a radiation curable hot melt composition comprising:

- a) 20 to 100 wt.% of a radiation curable resin or a mixture of radiation curable resins having a viscosity in the range from 15 to 10,000 mPas in
5 the temperature range from 40 to 150°C,
- b) 0 to 50 wt.% of a hydroxyfunctional resin or oligomer or a mixture of hydroxyfunctional resins or oligomers,
- c) 0 to 10 wt.% of a photoinitiator,
- d) 0 to 50 wt.% of fillers and/or additives, and
10 e) 0 to 40 wt.% of pigment,

wherein the total amount of components a) to e) adds up to 100 wt.%.

The invention further relates to a process for the coating of a substrate with such radiation curable hot melt composition. In this process the composition is heated to a temperature in the range from 40 to 150°C, is applied to the
15 substrate, and then the coated substrate is exposed to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength $\lambda \leq 500$ nm.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence/post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:
RADIATION CURABLE HOT MELT COMPOSITION AND A PROCESS FOR THE APPLICATION THEREOF

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

() was filed on _____ as US Application Serial No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

Foreign Application(s) and/or Claim of Foreign Priority

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor(s) certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor(s) certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
Europe	99203431.4	10/19/1999	YES: X NO:
			YES: NO:

Provisional Application

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL	FILING DATE

U.S. Priority Claim

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section

112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS(patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following as my attorneys of record, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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